

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment, which adds new claim 18, be entered in the above-referenced application. Thus, claims 1-18 are pending and under consideration.

ADMISSION OF PRIOR ART ("APA")

In the Advisory Action mailed February 24, 2005, at page 2, the Examiner addressed Applicant's previously asserted arguments. More specifically, the Examiner noted that Applicant asserts that the prior art fails to teach or suggest disposing a comment statement at all positions in a source code where a comment statement can be disposed. Applicant reasserts this position.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that the APA section of the Specification, at page 3, lines 16-20, teaches that comments can be disposed at any position where comments can be disposed. However, lines 20-26 of the Specification indicate that the operator is unable to modify the source code "during the period till the change points by editing in the specification is used to update this source code after the specification has been automatically generated," which decreases efficiency and limits the disposition of comments. Thus, according to the APA at page 3, line 27 to page 4, line 6, the "conventional specification generating system has dealt with only the first type of comment statement as the processing target" and the specification generated by this system "has insufficient contents in description." The present invention then addresses the need to provide a system to generate specifications having sufficient contents in description.

In the Advisory Action at page 2, the Examiner asserts that "it is obvious on its face that [comment statements] can appear wherever they appear." However, Applicant again asserts that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a "computer readable medium containing a specification generating program read by a computer connected to an input device and a display device" which controls the computer to execute, in part, "disposing a comment statement including a corresponding unique comment keyword at all positions in a source code where a comment statement can be disposed," as recited in independent claim 1. Similar features are recited in independent claims 5, 9, 13, 14, and new claim 18. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 14, and 18 and those claims depending either directly or indirectly therefrom patentably distinguish over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

THE NAOTO REFERENCE

In the Advisory Action at page 2, the Examiner asserted that "none of claims 3, 7, or 11 recite the limitation "input device." Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5, and 9, from which claims 3, 7, and 11 respectively depend each recite the "input device" is used to indicate changes in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 7, and 11 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIM 18

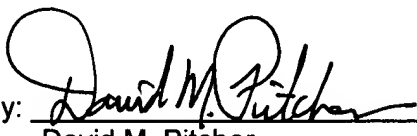
Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider new claim 18, which is added to set forth the invention in varying scope. New claim 18 distinguishes between "extracting comment statements from positions immediately before aggregates in a source code" and "extracting comment statements from processing procedures within aggregates" and also recites "disposing a comment statement including a corresponding unique comment keyword at positions immediately before aggregates and at positions in aggregates having processing procedures." Further, new claim 18 recites that the specification data may be edited "by adding additional data or revising existing data, using the input device" before updating the comment statements in the source code by the replacing them with the comment statements in the specification data. Applicant respectfully submits that the APA, Delucia, and Naota, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of new independent claim 18 and, thus, claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment,
please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: March 23, 2005

By: 
David M. Pitcher
Registration No. 25,908

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501